

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 19, 2006

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR ON STATE SUPREME
COURT'S ORDER RELATED TO STATE FUNDING FOR THE PARTNERSHIP FOR
A HEALTHY MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Supreme Court's ruling is encouraging for those of us who believe it is unconstitutional for a local court to give state taxpayers' money to a private organization. State taxpayers' money can only be spent through the legislative process.

I have instructed my staff to work with the state Departments of Health and Education to make sure we find state funding to keep on the job school nurses who previously have been paid by the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi. It is important that we not allow the school nurse program to be interrupted. I am confident we will find the necessary money to keep schools nurses on the job until the Legislature can appropriate funding for this purpose in the 2007 Regular Session.